(b) The broad features of the action programme are to reduce road accidents and fatalities by the year 2001 AD.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps proposed to bring down fatalities and road accidents include improving safety culture among drivers/pedestrians, to promote motor driving schools, strict enforcement of regulations relating to issue of vehicle fitness certificates, developing wayside amenities, deterrent punishment for traffic offences, encouraging NGOs to promote road safety, etc. etc.

Allotment of land at Cochin Port for handling cement

2463. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cochin Port Trust invited tenders in 1995 for priority Berthing and allotment of land at Cochin Port for handling cement;

(b) if so, what was the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee;

(c) whether the Cochin Port Trust approved the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee and forwarded to Government for concurrence; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Cochin Port Trust and the decision taken by Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Cochin Port Trust issued Press Advertisement for creation of Cement handling facilities during November, 1994.

(b) to (d). The Cochin Port Trust Board recommended two proposals for approval received in response to the same Advertisement. One proposal was rejected on technical grounds and the other was turned down in view of environmental consideration and opposition of the State Government.

Allocation of funds to Regional Textile Commission for payment under TWRF Scheme

2464. SHRI RAMJILAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated to the Regional Textile Commission by the competent authority for payment under TWRF Scheme, since the inception of this scheme, year-wise;

(b) the details of the competent authority in this regard; and

(c) the details of the requests for funds, pending with the Textile Commission Bombay which have been received from the Regional Textile Commission, Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) Statement is attached. (*See* below)

(b) Textile Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles is the competent authority.

(c) No request for funds relating to the private sector to which the TWRF Scheme is applicable is pending with Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.

Statement

Textile Commissioner, Mumbai has allocated funds under TWRFS to Regional Offices of Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Coimbatore and Mumbai.

The details since the inception of the Scheme is given below:

(in Rs.)

Year	Regional Office, Ahmedabad	Regional Office, Amritsar	Regional Office, Coimbatore	Regional Office Mumbai
1987-88 . . .	nil	nil	nil	nil
1988-89 . . .	2,00,00,000	"	"	"
1989-90 . . .	9,57,75,000	"	42,25, 000	"
1990-91 . . .	12,37,92,145	7,62,07,855	2,00,00,000	2,00,00,000
1991-92 . . .	6,20,77,000	2,88,30,000	20,00,000	70,93,000
1992-93* . . .	13,07,26,506	1,53,47,181	12,60,524	65,26,823
1993-94 . . .	10,73,10,927	nil	nil	1,10,28,039
1994-95 . . .	5,43,61,393	"	"	2,38,607
1995-96 . . .	3,14,98,851	"	"	26,149
1996-97 . . .	5,88,20,706	15,610	"	63,684
1997-98 . . .	6,71,00,000	. .	3,50,00,000	. .

*An amount of Rs. 1,01,38,966 had been surrendered as the same was not utilised inter-alia due to incomplete applications of workers. The condition of utilising the funds allocated under TWRFS during the year of allocation was commenced w.e.f. the financial year of 1992-93.

Amendment in guidelines for payment under TWRF Scheme

2465. SHRI RAMJILAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made certain amendments to the updated guidelines dated 1-5-1991 for payment of relief under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund (TWRF) Scheme;

(b) it so, the number of workers belonging to Himachal Worsted Mills Limited, Nalagarh (Himachal Pradesh) who have been found eligible for payment under the said scheme by the office of the Regional Textile Commissioner, Amritsar;

(c) the reasons for which payment under the said scheme has not been made to these poor workers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to release the funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The following amendments have been made in TWRF Scheme;

(i) The TWRF Scheme has also been made applicable to cases of partial closure on a case to case basis subject to certain conditions.

(ii) Under the eligibility clause the wage ceiling limit has been raised from Rs. 1600/- per month to Rs. 2500/- per month.

The Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme has not so far been extended to Central and State Textile PSUs.

Development of silk textiles in N. E. Region

2466. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the detail of the steps taken/initiated for speedy development of silk textiles